

## Message Text

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63

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 271730Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9585

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

S E C R E T LOME 1898

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: TO, PINS, PFOR

SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS AND STUDENT ATTACKS ON INTERNAL CRITICS  
OF EYADEMA REGIME

REF: A. LOME 1860, B. LOME 1881, C. LOME 1789

1. OFFICIAL SOURCES AND MEDIA REMAIN SILENT ON ARREST OF TOGOLESE MILITARY OFFICERS, AND AUGUST 26 ISSUE OF "TOGO-PRESSE" DID NOT REPORT ON STUDENT OR OTHER SPECIAL DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR EYADEMA. TODAY (AUGUST 27) THIS SOLE TOGOLESE NEWSPAPER DEVOTES ALMOST FULL PAGE TO EDITORIAL ON STUDENTS IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT SURGE OF STUDENT SUPPORT FOR EYADEMA. ARTICLE REFRAINS FROM ATTACKING IMPERIALISM AND FOCUSES READERS' ATTENTION EXCLUSIVELY ON INTERNAL UNNAMED "EVIL POLITICIANS" ("POLITICARDS") WHO, LIKE GLUTTONS AND DRUNKARDS, CARRY TO EXCESS THEIR DESIRE TO SOW DISORDER AND ACQUIRE POWER. ARTICLE ACCUSES COUNTRY'S "MISERABLE POLITICARDS" OF HAVING TRIED TO INCITE TOGO'S YOUTH TO MANIFEST ITS DISCONTENT WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN BELIEF THAT ENTIRE POPULATION WOULD JOIN IN STUDENTS' PROTEST.

2. "TOGO-PRESSE" TODAY ALSO CARRIED TEXT OF ATAKPAME STUDENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EYADEMA. OTHER STUDENTS' EARLIER VEILED  
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REFERENCES TO WAYWARD ELEMENTS IN COUNTRY WERE REPLACED BY

DENUNCIATION OF OPEN LETTER PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO PRESIDENT EYADEMA LAST MAY (REF C); ATAKPAME DECLARATION ALSO DENOUNCED SO-CALLED "SPECIAL 26TH CONGRESS OF TOGOLESE STUDENTS AND TRAINEES IN FRANCE" WHOSE RESOLUTIONS ATAKPAME STUDENTS INTERPRET AS ATTEMPT TO INTOXICATE TOGO'S "MILITANT MASSES." AGAIN, EXCEPT FOR ONE REFERENCE TO LACKEYS OF IMPERIALISM, ATAKPAME RESOLUTION DID NOT HINT AT ANY EXTERNAL INFLUENCE, EITHER ON TOGO'S DISSIDENT ELEMENTS OR STUDENTS.

3. YESTERDAY I ATTENDED OPENING OF TWO-DAY STATUTORY CONGRESS OF NATIONAL UNION OF TOGOLESE WOMEN (UNFT), WHICH IS WOMEN'S ARM OF NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY (RPT). MILITANT MINISTER OF INTERIOR EKLO, WHO IS ALSO RPT ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, REPRESENTED PRESIDENT AS PRINCIPAL SPEAKER. EKLO DID REFER TO "MACHINATIONS OF ENEMIES OF AFRICA IN GENERAL AND OF TOGO IN PARTICULAR AND THEIR LACKEYS," BUT HE DID NOT RPT NOT DEVELOP THIS THEME. HE STRESSED INSTEAD NATIONAL UNITY AND INCREASING SUPPORT OF ALL TOGOLESE PEOPLE FOR EYADEMA.

4. COMMENT: EYADEMA HAS NOW REACHED POINT AT WHICH HE COULD QUITE EASILY RELEASE MILITARY OFFICERS COMLAN AND EZI WITHOUT HAVING TO OFFER ANY EXPLANATION AT ALL FOR THEIR DETENTION. STUDENTS' DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN CAST SO AS TO AROUSE POPULAR INTEREST IN GENERAL ASSERTION THAT THERE ARE EVIL ELEMENTS OF TOGOLESE CITIZENRY WORKING AGAINST THE NATION'S BEST INTERESTS. AT THIS STAGE, EMBASSY FEELS IT NEEDS TO BEGIN REPORTING TO INTERESTED WASHINGTON AUDIENCE WHICH IS BROADER THAN THAT REACHED IN EXDIS CHANNEL. WE PROPOSE TO DO THIS WITHOUT MAKING REFERENCE TO RUMORS IMPLICATING USG IN "COUP PLOTTING." IF DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, PLEASE ADVISE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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